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201131Z Jun 00

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ACTION PRM-01

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00
	SMEC-00	INL-01	DODE-00	DOEE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	EUR-00	OIGO-02	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NEA-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OTC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

/012W

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6350
INFO USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
COMMISSIONER USINS WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 003323

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DEPT FOR PRM A/S TAFT, PRM/A, PRM/AAA, AF/S, AF/PD,
WHA/CCA
NAIROBI FOR REFCOORD AND INS
ROME FOR INS
LONDON FOR PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/20/10
TAGS: [PREF](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [ZI](#) [CU](#)
SUBJECT: HANDING OVER CUBAN DOCTORS' PASSPORTS TO UNHCR

REF: A). STATE 115930 (NOTAL)

B). HARARE 3277

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TOM MCDONALD FOR REASONS 1.5
B/D.

[1](#)1. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUESTED MESSAGE. PLEASE SEE
PARAGRAPH 6.

[1](#)2. (C) DCM AND CONSUL MET WITH UNHCR ATTORNEY MICHIEL
SALOMONS THE MORNING OF JUNE 20 IN RESPONSE TO HIS
REQUEST THAT THE PASSPORTS OF CUBAN DOCTORS' LEONEL
CORDOVA RODRIGUEZ AND NORIS DEL CARMEN PENA MARTINEZ BE
GIVEN TO UNHCR. SALOMONS NEEDED THESE TO OBTAIN VISAS
THAT AN UNNAMED COUNTRY WOULD GRANT FOR CONDITIONAL
RESETTLEMENT. THE UNHCR ATTORNEY APOLOGIZED FOR NOT
BEING ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE COUNTRY, STATING THAT IN
DOING SO HE WAS ONLY FOLLOWING THE ORDERS OF HIS BOSS
(UNHCR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OLUSEYI BAJULAIYE).

[1](#)3. (C) ACCORDING TO SALOMONS, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF
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ELEMENTS IN THE CASE PREVENTING THE UNHCR FROM ISSUING
THEM TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. THEY INCLUDE THE STRONG PROTEST
MADE BY THE UNHCR ON THE GOZ'S DENIAL OF ACCESS TO
PROPER AND LEGAL REFUGEE PROCEDURES, THE RULING BY THE
ZIMBABWE ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE THAT IT COULD NEITHER
ACCEPT NOR REJECT THE CUBANS CLAIM FOR REFUGEE STATUS,
AND THE COMMITTEE'S REQUEST THAT UNHCR FIND A DURABLE
SOLUTION HAS ONLY FURTHER COMPLICATED THE PROCESS.
SALOMONS WAS PROUD TO CLAIM THAT THE UNHCR HAS NOW COME
UP WITH A "SOLUTION", HAVING LOCATED A COUNTRY WILLING
TO ACCEPT THE CUBANS ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. THE UNHCR
HAS NEGOTIATED A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH THIS UNSPECIFIED
COUNTRY.

[1](#)4. (C) SALOMONS SAID THE RESETTLEMENT COUNTRY HAS
STIPULATED THAT THE PASSPORTS OF THE CUBAN DOCTORS MUST
BE GIVEN TO THEM FOR VISA ISSUANCE. SALOMONS AGAIN
REITERATED THAT THE UNHCR WAS LEGALLY PROHIBITED FROM
ISSUING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO THE TWO CUBANS AS IT
CONSIDERS THEM TO BE ASYLUM SEEKERS OR "DE FACTO"

REFUGEES. THEREFORE, THE VISAS WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT IN THE CUBANS PASSPORTS. SALOMONS ALSO OPINED THAT REGARDLESS OF THE LEGALITY OF HIS ORGANIZATION ISSUING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, IT WOULD NOT DO SO, DUE TO "POLITICAL" CONSIDERATIONS. SALOMONS ALSO ADVISED US THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THE GOZ WILL NOT RELEASE THE CUBANS TO THE UNHCR FOR RESETTLEMENT TO THE UNNAMED COUNTRY EVEN WITH THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE LATTER.

15. (C) OF INTEREST, AND IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO WHAT WE WERE TOLD ON JUNE 19, SALOMONS ADMITTED THAT
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CONDITIONS AT THE NEW LOCATION WHERE THE CUBANS ARE BEING HELD ARE SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE THAN AT THE GOROMONZI DETENTION CENTER. DUE TO THIS, THE UNHCR IS NOW REQUESTING THAT THE CUBANS TO MOVED TO YET ANOTHER, UNSPECIFIED, THIRD LOCATION. OUR SURPRISE AT THIS TURNAROUND WAS EVIDENT, HAVING RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM BOTH BAJULAIYE AND SALOMONS ONLY 24 HOURS AGO THAT THEY HAD INSPECTED THE NEW REMAND FACILITIES AND FOUND IT TO BE FAR BETTER THAN GOROMONZI. UNHCR HAD NEGOTIATED AMENITIES FOR THE CUBANS AT GORONMONZI TO INCLUDE FIVE BLANKETS, A DAILY SHOWER AND THREE MEALS A DAY ALL OF WHICH WAS BEING DENIED TO THEM AT THE NEW FACILITIES. DOCTOR CORDOVA RODRIGUEZ HAD BEEN PLACED IN A CROWDED CELL WITH EIGHT OTHER PRISONERS, TWO OF WHOM IMMEDIATELY BEGAN BEATING HIM. THE POLICE REACTED AND REMOVED THE CUBAN DOCTOR FROM THE CELL AND PLACED HIM IN A SINGLE CELL. BOTH CUBANS ARE SCHEDULED TO HAVE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS SOMETIME TODAY.

16. (C) ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE UNHCR IS IN FULL CONTROL OF THIS PROCESS, POST ASSUMES THAT IT SHOULD RELEASE THE PASSPORTS OF THE CUBAN DOCTORS TO THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE. HOWEVER, POST WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT.

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	/012W						

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 HARARE 003323

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